

Cracklin' Static

December 2018 Edition



Breakfast Meeting: Sat, Dec 1st.

Boomtown Casino Hotel
Events Center
I-80 at Exit 4 in Verdi

Breakfast Buffet – 7:30am - \$12
General Meeting – 8:00am

ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AND RESULTS TABULATED. ANY BALLOTS MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE THE MEETING COMMENCES.

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury – As of Nov 24

Checking	\$9,563
Savings	\$6,201
Self Ins	\$2,392
Convention	\$6,221
PayPal	\$1,427
Total	\$25,804

SNARS Membership – ending Nov 26

Extra	122	35%
General	90	26%
Technician	121	35%
Advanced	13	4%

SNARS Members 346
ARRL Members 230 66%

President's Voice

President Anthony Marcin, W7XM

Email: w7xm@snars.org | Telegram: @w7xm_nv



A reminder this weekend is our annual elections. Please have your ballots turned in by 8am on December 1st, 2018. We will then start counting of the ballots at 8am and announce the winners for the

three board of directors positions. Once announced the new board of directors will call an organizational meeting to determine who will be your officers for the 2019 year. Good luck to all those who have chosen to run for the board of directors!.

Over the next month you will see a new website along with some new features for the membership including a new members online ham swap, ability to update your information, renewal of membership and a new members only section. This new systems will provide a much needed system to help manage the membership as it has become a bit of a task to handle the over 340 members we have today. We hope you will enjoy this new website and membership management system. Stay tuned and check out the January Cracklin' Static for how to access the new site.

In closing, I would like to thank the board of directors who have served this last year. They have been great to work with over the last year and during my tenure as president. Also like to thank the membership as this is your organization. It has been a great pleasure serving as president of SNARS these last couple of years and know you will be in great hands when the next president is chosen. I of course will still serve on the board of directors for the next year and will help who ever is chosen to transition the duties and be available for any questions they might have.

Again thank you to all the members. This is truly a great organization! I am proud of where this club has come from and where it is today. I look forward to working with the new board and of course the new president.

73,

W7XM



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
 Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family
 775.453.4142 <http://snars.org>

2018 Officers

President.....Anthony Marcin, W7XM
 Vice-President.....Jim Shepherd, W6US
 Treasurer.....Bill Jones, AE7OX
 Secretary.....Rob Dunbar, NB6C
 DirectorWes Vick, KG7QXE
 DirectorJohn Byerly, N7ROJ
 DirectorBarry Bettman, K6ST

2018 Staff

Cracklin StaticHowie Holden, WB2AWQ
 W7TA TrusteePeter DeBay, KE7VSR
 KR7ENO Trustee.....Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
 Control OperatorPat Sheehan, W7DED
 HistorianJon Fox, KF7KTC
 Tech Team LeadJohn Byerly, N7ROJ
 MembershipAnthony Marcin, W7XM
 PIOGreg Krantz, NT7K
 VE Coordinator.....Bill Nichols, NN7K
 Meeting GreeterBill Jones, AE7OX
 Noon Net ManagerWes Vick, KG7QXE
 DMR Net ManagerAnthony Marcin, W7XM
 Reno Ham Swap.....Rob Dunbar, NB6C
 WebmasterErik Andreasen, K6CZH

Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden **WB2AWQ** - holden7471@msn.com

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size or line spacing may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Offline

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online



Online



Offline



Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

Bishops Storehouse Net	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Monday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newsline	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Week Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays 8:00PM

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

Ham Radio Night at the REOC Wednesday Dec 5, 6 :00 PM Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno NV

SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday December 12, 6 PM

SNARS VE EXAMS Saturday, December 15, 9AM to 12 Noon Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno NV

NVCON Planning Meeting Wednesday, Dec 26, 6 PM Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno NV

Next SNARS Breakfast Meeting – Saturday Jan 5, 8 AM Boomtown Casino Hotel Events Center I-80 at Exit 4 in Verdi

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members list not received

New Members for November 2018		
Killian	Ryan	KJ7BMJ
Kevin	Johnson	N5WTS

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

FIRST WEDNESDAY HAM RADIO NIGHT

Every First Wednesday of the Month, there is a workshop at 1800 up at the REOC for hams to get help with the many facets of Ham Radio. In the past it has been primarily a session to get your DMR radio programmed, but we have been expanding into other topics and activities.

A couple of months ago, we ran a session on using the Club's loaner HF radios. We covered the operational details, how to set the radio up, a little about antennas that can be used, and even how to repack the radio into the case for return. In order to check one of these radios (we have 3) out for loan, you will need to have some instruction in their use. If we know ahead of the Wednesday night session that anyone is interested in borrowing a radio, we will have it there and can go through the training.

Last month, we covered some of the more advanced techniques of using the N1MM+ contest logging software and shared some of the hints and kinks of this powerful free program. This was after the NVQSO party, and all present had used the software so it was a good time learning from each other.

In past meetings, we have helped with programming various radios, diagnosed problems with some radios, and tried to get hams started in using CHIRP, the powerful programmer that will work on most radios.

Due to the wide variety of equipment in use by all of our club members, we ask that you bring the equipment, a power source (be sure batteries are charged), a small antenna or dummy load, the manuals, and, if you have it, your laptop with cables and software for the radio. We can try to help you find the problems, and can help you find someone else who may be able to answer questions that we cannot handle.

We will have a session early next year on checking your VHF/UHF radios for correct audio levels. We will have a

couple of the members of the Tech Team with test equipment to assist setting correct deviation and/or mic gain. For that session, we will send out a MiniStatic detailing what you will need to bring in order to properly test and possibly adjust your radio. A lot of the modern radios actually use software to make the adjustments to the radio while it is connected to the test gear. If you are regularly told that you have low audio or are distorted, this will be an important session to attend.

We would like to hear about any topics that you would like to see covered at one of these meetings. It can be something like how to install the various connectors, to using test equipment, to how to work HF DX pileups.

It need not be equipment oriented. Discussions on operation techniques, how to get the most out of a visit to a hamfest, or other topics are encouraged. There are so many facets to ham radio that there are endless topics and questions to be answered. Remember, there is only one thing dumb about a question, and that is not asking it. These Wednesday night sessions are a great place to ask questions.

The December meeting will have a session on the introduction to test equipment and we will have a variety of different pieces of gear to play with from very basic gear to a Service Monitor. Equipment will include a digital multi meter, digital oscilloscope, component tester, rf power meter, ammeters, antenna analyzer, an IFR 1200 Service Monitor and maybe a couple of other items... Show up and you can twist knobs and make measurements! Save the date--December 5 at 1800 at the REOC to attend this activity.

Come join us at Ham Radio Night, the first Wednesday of the month at 1800!

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinted our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at
<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>

MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FORTY

Mike Katz, N7MSK

THE Q-CODE FOR AMATEUR RADIO USERS

Information from: 

The Q code is widely used in radio communications applications. The Q code arose out of the need to communicate quickly and concisely when using Morse code, but its use has spread more widely than that, especially within amateur radio. As the terms have been used widely in Morse operation, their use also spread into voice communications as well.

The Q code is an extensive set of codes covering an extremely wide variety of phases. These were used by marine, airborne and even land-based communications. The code meanings are defined in ITU (International Telecommunications Union) documentation and they were introduced primarily for professional communications. However they are very convenient and easy to use and as a result their use has been widely adopted by radio hams as well.

Within amateur radio, the Q codes have started to appear in voice communications, and their use is somewhat less formal than when it is used for Morse communications. Additionally some of the Q codes have taken on special significance.

Often Q codes will be heard used in normal speech by radio amateurs. For example, one ham may be heard talking about a high level of QRM. When using the Q code in this manner, the basic meaning of the code is taken, such that the example given means that there is a high level of man made interference. Similarly a QRP station is one that is only using low power.

Another Q code that has taken on additional significance is QSL. In the early days of ham radio when the first transatlantic contacts were being made and other distance records were being broken, many radio hams wrote to each other confirming the contact. Someone then sent a special card to confirm a contact, and with this the idea of QSL cards was born. Today, many millions of QSL cards are exchanged each year, and now even e-QSL cards are sent.

Despite the fact that the Morse code is no longer mandatory and its use is in decline, the Q codes are still in widespread use, especially within ham radio. Accordingly it is anticipated that the Q codes will be heard for many years to come.

SUMMARY OF THE MORE WIDELY USED Q CODES:

(Editor's note: Q Codes can be either a question, the reply, or a statement.)

QRM Is there any (Man made) interference?
There is man made interference.

QRN Is there any atmospheric noise?
There is atmospheric noise.

QRO Shall I increase power?
Increase power.

QRP Shall I decrease power?
Decrease power.

QRT Shall I stop sending?
Stop sending.

QRU Do you have any messages for me?
I have no messages for you.

QRV Are you ready to receive?
I am ready to receive.

QRZ Who is calling me?
You are being called by . . .

QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?
I acknowledge receipt.

QSP Can you relay a message?
I can relay a message.

QSY Shall I change to another frequency?
Change to another frequency.

QTH What is your location?
My location is . .

* * * * *

NAME THAT RIG



(Answer on pg 7)

FUN STUFF FOR DECEMBER

December is notably slim on contests. Just four events in December are NCJ or ARRL-sponsored, (shown in bold) thus possibly qualifying for the ARRL Gavel Award.

30 Nov 2200 to 2 Dec 1600 **1.8 ARRL 160-Meter Contest CW**
www.arrl.org/160-meter

8 Dec 0000 to 9 Dec 2359 **28 ARRL 10-Meter Contest CW Ph**
www.arrl.org/10-meter

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 6)

16 Dec 1800 to 16 Dec 2359 3.5-50 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW
www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

29 Dec 0000 to 29 Dec 2359 1.8-144 RAC Winter Contest CW Ph
wp.rac.ca/rac-canadawinter-contest-rules

A complete list of contests is available at:
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2018/December%202018%20Corral.pdf>

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase. Some of the better DX operations coming up in December:

Nov 22 to Dec 06 **Sri Lanka 4S7DLG**

Nov 22 to Dec 14 **Cambodia XU7AKB**

Nov 25 to Dec 02 **East Timor 4W**

Dec 02 to Dec 11 **Burkina Faso XT2BR**

Dec 04 to Dec 18 **French Polynesia TX0A**

Dec 05 to Dec 11 **East Kiribati T32NH**

Dec 07 to Dec 09 **Senegal 6V1A**

Dec 25 to Dec 31 **Mariana Is KH0TG**

Dec 25 to Jan 08 **Vanuatu YJ0AFU**

See <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> for more DX operations.

For non-weekend contest, non-DX stuff, try these:

The ARRL International Grid Chase 2018. While this is technically a contest, it goes all year long, and can be pursued even on the WARC bands. Do you know your grid square, or how it's determined? Visit: <http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY Dec 1-2 see ARES NEWS for details!

ARRL Straight Key Night, January 1, 0000Z to 2400Z. For decades this has been one of the most popular non-contest operating events in Ham radio. In recent years semi-automatic keys, or bugs, have been added into the mix, because they are mechanical keying devices. It's also a time when many stations break out the old gear, often the operators' Novice rigs, and all manner of keys, old, very old, some even brand new. For 24 hours CW is king of the airwaves. No place for keyers, paddles, keyboards or computer-generated CW here.



WW2 Navy Flameproof shipboard key CMI 26003

In the late 1960s Allied Radio (think Knight Kits) came out with the A-2517 HF transceiver. Typical of the times, it was a hybrid unit—mostly solid state including a few ICs, such as were available in the day, and tubes for the TX section driver and final amp stages. This radio was actually a Kenwood TS-510 repackaged, not a kit, and contained some refined features for its time. It was reviewed by the legendary Doug DeMaw W1FB on the pages of QST in 1970, who spoke highly of its performance and features. Additionally it sold for a very reasonable \$400, but it never really took off in the Amateur community, and except for a couple of SW receivers that never caught on, Allied stuck to more mundane VHF comm stuff after that. I've Never seen one up close, not many exist today, and they don't seem to catch much attention with the vintage crowd.

ARRL NEVADA SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Tony Marcin W7XM

ARRL Nevada Section Club Coordinator

Chuck Farnham WD6CHC

ARRL Nevada Assistant Section Manager

Chuck was previously the State Public Information Coordinator.

Barry Bettman K6ST

ARRL Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

All are SNARS members and ARRL LIFE Members
members and ARRL LIFE Members

Submitted by Chuck Farnham WD6CHC

START 'EM YOUNG.....

Elliot William Holden, arrived November 9, the son of proud parents Ken Holden KB2SFS and wife Tamsen (and grandson of Howie WB2AWQ and wife) is already on 40 meters, and in a section where CW is common, even if it's the slower variety. (Actually that's his weight, but funny that's what it was)



W7SSB's FUN STUFF

The MFJ "Big Ear" antenna systems covers 7MHZ. - 55MHZ. and will handle up to 1KW of RF power!



Great for portable operation, easy to assemble and operate!



I use it at the shop and keep it in my truck for portable use The antenna needs to be mounted on a 3/4" painters pole, mast or whatever that is insulated (fiberglass, wood, pvc etc.)

Please review the MFJ link below and attached pictures!

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-2289>



You can buy just the antenna or add the carrying case and or one of the two tripods with masts offered!



The pictures show the antenna at full extension on 40 meters! Also one of the pictures show the complete antenna package with carrying case and tripod!

If you have any questions, please contact me 73, Don W7SSB

KIDS DAY - YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Have you ever heard someone say: "All there are .. is old guys in ham radio, how come there aren't any young 'uns coming into the ham radio hobby?". Well, we have heard that one too many times to sit on our laurels, so welcome to Snars Youth Involvement, where SNARS members engage with youth to expose them to the joys of ham radio.

Coming up on Saturday January 5, 2019 is ARRL Kids.



Kids Day

January 5, 2019 10a - 4p PT

Share our ham excitement with kids!

For more information on Kids Day, go to <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

Any questions, contact K6ST Barry k6st@arrl.net

73,

Barry K6ST

<https://twitter.com/barrybettman>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/barrybettman>

PACIFICON FEEDBACK FROM CHUCK FARNHAM, WD6CHC

Special thanks to Paul W7VY, Barry K6ST and Dana K6BRR for helping man the NVCON booth at Pacificon 2018 in San Ramon two weeks ago.

A lot of NVCON hats were spotted in the crowd and attendees had 100% positive things to say about the Boomtown event this past July .



Everyone who stopped by the NVCON/SNARS booth and had attended the 2018 event said they were looking forward to 2019 to see what we had in store for them. Our event was clearly a hit and those who were just learning about it at the booth were making plans to add it to their ham events next year.



Pacificon attendees are our audience.

ARES NEWS

ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR 2018

EVENT 2018	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
Grinduro SBTS	TBD		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Indian Valley Leaf Peepers	TBD		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net

NOTE: Plumas ARC always have a need for operators. Go over to some beautiful country and help out the Plumas Amateur Radio Club

Hi All, I want to find out who would like to participate in SRD this year.

SKYWARN® Recognition Day Operating Instructions

Date NWS stations will operate December 2, 2018, from 0000 - 2400 UTC.

Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN® Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather. NOTE: in past events we operated DMR.

Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.).

Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).

Station Control Operator: It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website

COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER
Alpine, Ca	147.33	Douglas	147.33	Pershing	147.03	Washoe	147.15
	146.94		147.27		147.18		147.21
	147.24		147.24	Placer, Ca	147.24		147.03
	147.27		146.865	Plumas, Ca	147.15		147.18
	146.865	Eldorado, Ca	147.24		147.21		146.61
Churchill	147.15	Lassen, Ca	147.18	Sierra, Ca	147.15		147.39
	147.21				147.33		
	147.03	Lyon	146.97	Storey	147.15	EchoLink and IRLP	146.895
	147.18		146.61		147.21		147.3
	146.97		147.15		147.03	DMR	TALK GRPS
Carson City	146.61	Mineral			147.18		
	146.94	Modoc, Ca			146.61		
	147.39	Mono, Ca			147.39		
	147.27	Nevada, Ca	147.15		146.85		